teachers' salaries more than doubled.

The Period 1910-1925

The outstanding trends in the 1910-1925 period in the history of the Isle of Wight schools were the first phases of consolidation and establishing of high schools. Dr. Rawls had written the State Board of Education that in 1908 there were forty-three white schools in Isle of Wight County. Many of these were one-room schools, some of which were classified as graded schools, and some as high schools. The Isle of Wight Superintendent reported that there was only one school building at all modern.

First Phase of Consolidation

In 1916 the District School Boards under the guidance of Superintendent Rawls had consolidated the forty-three white schools of 1908 into nineteen schools; nine schools with more than three teachers; five two-room schools; and five one-room schools. The nine schools with three or more teachers were located at Smithfield, Isle of Wight, Windsor, Carrsville, Mt. Carmel, Mill Swamp, Rushmere, Rescue and Carrollton. The five schools with two teachers were at Comet, Darden's Cross Roads, Battery Park, Claytons and Zuni. One room schools were Morgarts, Long View, Popes, Line Pine and Lone Pine. The first consolidations to form high schools were made so as to form a line of schools around the edges of the County as well

as another line passing through the County from north to south. The first line following the borders of the County were Carrsville, near the Nansemond County line; Mt. Carmel, near the Southampton County line; Mill Swamp and Rushmere, near the Surry County line; Battery Park, Rescue and Carrollton near the James River. The second line across the County had Smithfield, Isle of Wight, Windsor and Carrsville. In 1912-1913 the State Superintendent's Report of Virginia High Schools had listed three high schools, Smithfield, Windsor and Isle of Wight. Smithfield offered 20 units, Windsor 7.8, and Isle of Wight 9.3. Smithfield had a school term of 36 weeks; Windsor and Isle of Wight had only thirty-two weeks in their session. Smithfield was offering a college preparatory course. The other two schools were just beginning to build high school departments. Isle of Wight had two high school teachers, Windsor only one. Smithfield that year had three high school teachers.

The high school movement had progressed so much in Isle of Wight County that during the 1914-1915 session eight schools were reported offering some high school work. These schools were Bay View (Rushmere) with 10 pupils doing high school work and 70 in the elementary department of the school; Carrollton had 21 high school pupils and 95 elementary; Isle of Wight 34 in high school, 111 in elementary; Mt. Carmel 13 in high school, 90 in elementary; Rescue 9 in high, 44, elementary; Mill Swamp

13 in high, 48 in elementary; Smithfield 45 in high, 174 in elementary; and Windsor 18 in high, 105 in elementary. This shows a total of 165 pupils doing high school work, and 737 in the elementary grades of these eight schools.

Six white schools were reported for the session 1915-1916 doing some high school work. In 1916-1917, however, eight schools were again giving high school instruction. Bay View now had 11 in high school, 83 in elementary; Carrollton 22 in high school, 126 in elementary; Isle of Wight 24 in high school, 119 in elementary; Mt. Carmel 14 in high school, 120 in elementary; Rescue 15 in high school, 50 in elementary; Mill Swamp 17 in high school, 69 in elementary; Smithfield 67 in high school, 214 in elementary; Windsor 21 in high school, 138 in elementary. The eight schools that session enrolled 191 high school pupils and 919 in their elementary departments.

The next session only the high schools offering four years of high school work were listed by the State Department of Education, and three of Isle of Wight County high schools were reported: Smithfield with fifty-five high school pupils; Windsor with thirty-two and Isle of Wight with twenty-one. Smithfield and Windsor were listed as accredited high schools. The report for 1919-1920 session lists only the three high schools in 1918-1919. Smithfield had increased its high school roll by one; Windsor by five; and Isle of Wight by six.

Smithfield and Windsor again were listed as accredited high schools.

Early Isle of Wight Transportation

The consolidation of schools brought about a necessity of transporting school children in Isle of Wight County. As early as 1908 Superintendent Rawls inaugurated a system of transporting children from the community in which a school was abandoned, or closed, to the consolidated school. At first school wagons were used for this purpose. The single wagon - so called because it was pulled by one horse or mule - usually transported twelve to fifteen pupils, and the double wagon carried from twenty to twenty-five children. The route of these wagons was sometimes as long as six miles and required two hours for the trip to school. In extremely cold weather the small children often suffered because of the cold. Very often the larger boys to keep warm walked beside the wagon, easily keeping up with the slow pace of the team. In 1919 the District School Board contracted for a motor truck to replace one of the double-wagon routes, and gradually motors replaced the mules and horses in transporting Isle of Wight school children. The kid-wagon, or Gypsy wagon, passed into history.

The First Accredited High Schools

Smithfield had been a four year high school as early as

1917. For several years prior to 1917 it had been placed on "the provisional accreditation list" by the State Department of Education, the condition being occasioned by an unsatisfactory building.

The movement for better school buildings in Isle of Wight County was aided by the erection of the Windsor High School building in 1916. This was a two-story brick building located on five acres of land in the Town of Windsor. Just as a movement in Smithfield in 1916 had influenced Isle of Wight Courthouse and other communities to better school facilities then, so did the new building at Windsor spur on other Isle of Wight communities. An election for a bond issue was called in the Town of Smithfield with the result that a new $100,000.00 modern high school building was erected in 1921. The Isle of Wight Courthouse community also one year later boasted a new high school building, and in 1924 there was built the new Carrsville High School plant. Within a few years, these four schools were to become the only white schools in the County, had new and modern buildings.

The State Superintendent's Report for 1918-1920 gave an index rating to each of the then one hundred counties. In this rating Isle of Wight was placed thirty-eighth. The County had an academic index of 62 and a financial index of 61. The Index rating of the Isle of Wight County Schools for 1919-1920 indicated an annual salary for teachers at $530.00, percent of

local funds in teachers' salaries 43, per capita cost of instruction $15.00, percent of attendance on population 60, term in days, 146, percent teachers certificates above 2nd grade 83, percent high school pupils on roll 5.2.

Change to County Unit Control

In accordance with the recently adopted school law Isle of Wight County in 1922 changed from a district unit to a county unit system of control for its schools. Since the inauguration of the public school system in 1871 district school boards had administered the schools of the County. In addition to the three district boards of Newport, Hardy and Windsor, the Town of Smithfield had been constituted a separate school district in 1874 and Dr. John R. Purdie, R. A. Todd, and W. W. Cofer appointed a Town District Board. These four district boards had annual county meetings, or more often when called, to formulate general educational policies. The county unit law did away with the district boards (except the Town of Smithfield) and set up a board with one representative from each of the three magisterial districts.

Personnel of County School Board

The new County School Board for Isle of Wight County was composed of Dr. R. Lee Seward, Chairman; Mr. W. R. Hall; and Mr. J. H. Gwaltney. Dr. Seward had been a member of the Newport District Board since 1912 and Mr. W. R. Hall had been

a member of the Hardy School Board since 1913. Dr. Rea Parker was designated by the Town School Board of Smithfield to meet with the County School Board. Just as some of the Board of School Commissioners of 1860 became members of the District School Boards of 1871, so also did two members of the District Boards of 1922 become members of the new County School Board.

The Death of Dr. Rawls

Just a few months after the constituting of the Isle of Wight County School Board Dr. Rawls died. For thirty-six years he had been Superintendent of the County schools. Under his leadership the schools of Isle of Wight County had increased to over forty in number. During the last fifteen years of his superintendency consolidation had reduced the number of white schools to fourteen. Ten of these schools were doing some high school work. Windsor with 98 high school pupils and Smithfield with 84 were the two accredited high schools.

The Fourth School Superintendent of Isle of Wight

In October 1922 L. T. Hall, at that time Principal of the Windsor High School, was appointed by the State Board of Education to fill the vacancy. Superintendent Hall was born in Gloucester County, Virginia; had been educated in the public schools of Newport News, Virginia and Richmond College, at which Institution two of his predecessors had received their education. Hall had been principal of the Stevensville High

School for two sessions after college graduation, and in 1913 had become principal of the Windsor School, where he served until his elevation to the superintendency.

Growth of the Schools Under the County Unit System

The County unit plan offered the School Board an opportunity to further carry on consolidations and high school centralization inaugurated by the District School Boards during the 1910-1920 period. The District School Boards naturally in their consolidations had a small unit in mind. Consequently small high schools existed in all three of the magisterial districts as well as in the Town of Smithfield. The high school enrollment ranged from 6 in the Mt. Carmel School to thirty-five each in the Isle of Wight and Carrsville schools. Smithfield and Windsor had built their high school rolls to almost the hundred mark. The County School Board gradually consolidated the small high schools with the larger ones, following a policy of establishing four high schools the long way across the County, and almost equidistant. In 1922-1923 the roll and attendance of the white schools were: Windsor roll 392, attendance 313; Carrsville 140 and 108; Smithfield 320 and 261; Isle of Wight 216 and 166; Mt. Carmel 165 and 90; Mill Swamp 74 and 55; Bay View 68 and 48; Zuni 101 and 83; Carrollton 85 and 64; Rescue 71 and 54; Claytons 28 and 17; Darden Cross Roads 42 and 28; Comet 54 and 38;

Battery Park 41 and 31; Hornes 48 and 25. The total white roll was 1843 and the attendance 1381. Windsor was the largest school.

Summary of the Awakening Period 1910-1925

The fifteen years ending with the 1925 session of the County Schools were truly years of progress. The attendance increased by almost fifty percent, the length increased two months, forty teachers were added to the instructional force, the salaries almost trebled with corresponding increases in State and local funds. High school education for the white children was being offered in all parts of the County, and the forty-three small one and two-room schools had been supplanted by fifteen schools. The roll had increased from 2640 in 1910 to 3588 in 1925; the attendance from 1609 to 2372; the number of teachers from 58 to 98; and the term from 6.4 months to 8.4 months. Teachers salaries had increased from $18,303.00 to $39,857.00; State Funds from $12,402.00 to $43,757.00; and Local Funds in Salaries from $5910.00 to $26,100.00.

The growth of the Isle of Wight schools is also evidenced in the Index of Virginia county school systems prepared and published in the State Superintendent's Report for the 1924-1925 term. The Index not only indicated a growth as compared with conditions five years prior for Isle of Wight County, but shows that the County had advanced educationally from the

thirty-eighth position in the State to the sixteenth position, in the ranking of the Virginia counties. The average salary for teachers had advanced to $705.60; per cost of instruction to $19.47; percent of high school pupils to total roll 9.7; percent of teachers' certificates above 1st grade 68.37; term 168 days.

Second Phase Isle of Wight Consolidations

A second phase in the consolidation of the white schools of Isle of Wight County lasted from 1923 until 1938. During this time there was a gradual merging of the small schools with the larger ones, and sending the high school pupils from the small high schools to one of the four larger high school departments. In 1923 Darden's Cross Roads was consolidated with the Carrsville School and the Battery Park School with Smithfield. The next year the Claytons one-room school was consolidated with the Zuni school and the one-room Hornes school with the Isle of Wight School. In 1926 all high school pupils from Mt. Carmel, Mill Swamp, Bay View and Carrollton were placed in Windsor or Smithfield High Schools. Bay View was consolidated entirely with Smithfield in 1927 and Comet in 1928 was consolidated partly with Smithfield and Isle of Wight. In 1934 Zuni was consolidated with Windsor, and Mt. Carmel with Carrsville. The Rescue school from which the high school and upper grades had been sent to Smithfield during previous years

because of the burning of the Rescue building was finally consolidated in 1938 and completed the merging of the County white schools. In each of these consolidations the school administration met with opposition.

Enriching the Curriculum

The centralization of the high school pupils made possible the enriching of the curriculum. In 1919-1920 vocational agriculture had been added to the curriculum of the Windsor High School, with Home Economics being added the following session. These departments attracted boys and girls to the Windsor school. The County School Board gradually established departments in these two vocational courses at the other three white schools in the County and by 1930 all four of the white schools offered these subjects. At the Windsor school the first instructor in Agriculture, Dr. Walter S. Newman, later became the President of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Courses in Commercial Education were also inaugurated in 1937 and 1938 in the Windsor and Smithfield High Schools. The session 1939-1940 brought Music to all of the white schools of Isle of Wight County.

High School Growth

Isle of Wight County schools have experienced a remarkable growth in the number of high school pupils enrolled in its white high schools. For the session 1914-1915 one hundred

and sixty-three were reported as doing some high school work. The session of 1938-1939 found four hundred and twelve white high school students, or 30.5% of the white enrollment in high school departments.

Transportation

Consolidation of schools brought with it a growth also in transportation facilities. Before 1919 only wagons were used to transport school children. In that year one school truck was used. Since then motor-driven vehicles have gradually replaced slow-moving teams of horses or mules. Until the 1924-1925 session the Isle of Wight County School Board used the contract system in transporting school children. Increasing routes as a result of the consolidation of schools farther and farther apart, were bringing about increasing contracts. The School Board was persuaded to experiment with the County-owned plan of transportation. The trial was so successful that gradually all of the contracts were replaced with County-owned buses. In addition to better equipment, easier administration, and more flexibility in routing, the Isle of Wight County Board found the new plan more economical. In 1938-1939 Isle of Wight County schools used twenty-two vehicles to transport 1139 pupils daily, 148,180 miles, at a cost of $11,370.00, at a mile cost of 7.6¢, and a daily cost per pupil of 7.2¢ as compared in 1924-1925 of forty vehicles,

travelling 76,980 miles, transporting daily 815 pupils at a cost of $14,121.00, a mile cost of 18.4¢, or a daily pupil cost of 9.6¢. It will be noted that the transportation had been almost doubled in length, that a third more pupils were being transported, and that the total cost to the County had been reduced approximately twenty percent.

Growth in Qualifications of Teachers

During the first eighteen years of the County unit administration there was a growth in the qualifications of both the white and colored teacher in the Isle of Wight schools. There were only nine teachers in the white schools during the session of 1922-1923 holding the Collegiate Professional or Collegiate Teacher's Certificate, this certificate being issued after four years of college work. Seventeen white teachers held the Normal Professional, representing two years of college grade. The percentage of teachers with four years of training above high school level was therefore 13.7 and the percentage of teachers with two years of training above the high school level was 39.4. In 1939-1940 thirty-four of white elementary and high school teachers held the higher certificates, and were college graduates, a percentage 66.6. In addition to these college graduates there were fourteen others with the Normal Professional certificate, a total of forty-eight of the fifty-one

teachers, or 94.1% having had two years or more of college work. For the first years of the County unit set-up Isle of Wight did not have a Negro teacher with more than one year of training above the high school level. In 1925-1926 the first Normal Professional certificated Negro teacher in Isle of Wight schools was placed in the County. Seven, or 16.6% of the 1939-1940 Negro teachers were college graduates, and thirty-two or 77.7% held Normal Professional certificates, or above.

Improvement in Negro Education

The Negro schools in Isle of Wight County had improved comparatively as much as the white schools during the 1925-1926 and 1939-1940 periods. The County School Board inherited from the old District Boards the following Negro schools: Riverview, a four teacher school at Smithfield; Livy Neck, Gravel Hill, Fair Oaks, Godwins, Shiloh, Christian Home, Rising Star, Mitchells, Macedonia, Holly Grove, Eleys, Allens, Central Hill, Ebenezer, all with one teacher each; and Windsor and Muddy Fork with two teachers each. Of these schools only one, Riverview, did any high school work, and that a two-year course. Riverview, a four-room and two-story building; Trinity, a three-room building constructed about 1910, and in very good shape; Godwins, an old abandoned store room; Christian Home, a small twenty by twenty foot, ill-ventilated

and badly lighted building; Muddy Fork, a small two-room structure; and Windsor, a fairly substantial building erected in 1920; represented the property used for Negroes and owned by the County. The other schools for colored children were housed in halls, or other privately owned buildings. Gradually the County School Board consolidated some of these schools, erecting new buildings and otherwise improving school facilities for the Negro race. In many cases sites for the new buildings were acquired as a gift from the Negro patrons. During the period under discussion buildings for Negroes were erected at Holly Grove; Christian Home, a two-room building; Carrollton, a two-room building; Macedonia, with the name changed to New Hope; Moonfield, old Rising Star, but renamed Moonfield in honor of Captain John Moon, and located near or on the former plantation of that generous man in Colonial times, who left the increase from a stock of cattle to be used for schooling; McClelland; Sandy Mount; Ebenezer; Lawnes, a three-teacher school, combining Fair Oaks and Gravel Hill, and named after Sir Christopher Lawne, who established the first settlement in this County; Camptown, a four-room building combining the Jamestown School and Allens; Mitchells, a two-room school; Godwins; Carrsville, a two room school; and the Isle of Wight Training School, an eight-room modern brick building erected in 1928 on a site of seven acres donated by patrons of the school, and replacing the ancient Riverview

school. An agricultural building and a Home Economics were later erected, providing courses in Agriculture and Home Economics for colored boys and girls of the County. The Isle of Wight Training High School soon became a four-year accredited high school and had attained an enrollment of one hundred and sixty-five in the 1939-1940 session. At that time the school served as a high school for Negroes for the entire County, with County-owned buses transporting children from the southern part of Isle of Wight County.

In addition to the new buildings erected during the period, buildings at Gay and Claytons once used for white schools were being utilized for Negro education. In 1939-1940 the County School Board had plans for new Negro buildings at Muddy Fork and Livy Neck.

Visible Results

The school census taken in Isle of Wight County in 1935 indicated a great growth in the literacy of the children of school age. It will be recalled that in the school census of 1885 (fifty years before) the figures showed that forty per-cent of the white children (7-21 age group) could not read, and that fifty-one percent of the Negro children of the same ages were illiterate. In the 1935 school census of the 2008 white children only three were found to be illiterate, a percent of .1. Of the 2746 Negroes in the same age group

7-19 there were listed 30, or a percentage of 1.1.

The increasing and large number of high school graduates in Isle of Wight County from 1917 to 1940 was also significant of the trend making the public schools universal. For instance, in 1917 there was one high school graduate, this one at the Smithfield School. In 1940 Smithfield graduated 37, Windsor 30, Isle of Wight 6, and Carrsville 20, a total of 93.

Summary of the Period 1925-1940

During the 1925-1940 period the Isle of Wight County schools have continued their growth. The roll in 1925 was 3588, but dropped to 3140 in 1940. Notwithstanding a 12.5% decrease in enrollment, the attendance increased from 2372 to 2605, or 9.8%. The number of teachers dropped from 98 to 93, but the term was now nine months, going up from the 8.4 months term of 1925. Salaries of teachers, notwithstanding five fewer teachers, rose from $69,857.00 to $80,000.00, a 14.5% increase for an average salary of $860.00. State funds increased $12,243.00 to $56,000.00. While local funds in teachers' salaries amounted to $24,000.00 it represented a drop of $2100.00.

Summary of Public School Period 1871-1940

The public school period of Isle of Wight education has seen the same interest manifested as in the days of the Colony and the ante bellum period. The people have shown a willing-

ness to finance public education. The local tax rate levied in the County for school purposes show that in 1872 the total rate for schools was 10¢; in 1875 it had increased to 15¢; there it remained until 1895 when it declined to 10¢; in 1905 it had advanced 17½¢; in the awakening period of 1910 the rate doubled to 35¢; in 1915 to 50¢; in 1920 to 85¢; in 1925 to $1.00; in 1930 to $1.55; dropped in 1935 to a $1.25; and in 1940 to $1.70. Between 1930 and 1935 the old District rate for schools was dropped, and local support in the way of property tax was levied as a County rate for schools.

Before 1890 there was no property reported as being owned by the District Boards of Isle of Wight County. The 1890 report indicates that all property owned by the School Boards of the County totalled $1400.00. Other valuations of Isle of Wight County School property at ten year intervals were in 1900, $4350.00, in 1910, $32,245.00, in 1920, $148,893.00, in 1930, $298,000.00 and in 1940, $460,000.00. Salaries paid teachers in 1871 were $2566.00. In 1885 it had risen to $6763.00; in 1920 to $46,839.00; and in 1940 to $80,000.00. State funds for the same years were $2659.00, $5072.00, $27,071.00 and $56,000.00. Local funds in salaries in 1871 were nothing, in 1885, $1691.00; in 1920, $19,768.00; and in 1940, $24,000.00. Percent of local funds in salaries of teachers started at nothing in 1871; in 1885 it was 25%; in 1920, 42.6%; and in 1940, 30%.

Superintendent Hall's 1925-1940 Activity

For the 1924-1925 session Supt. Hall made a report to the County School Board in which were several significant statements and suggestions. First, was that the sale of school books had been taken over by the County Superintendent. Secondly, he recommended that gradually the School Board buy and operate its school buses. He reported that of the 1781 whites on roll only 1358 were in daily average attendance; or a percent of 76; twenty-two hundred white children of school age in the County with only 62% attending school regularly. Only 1016 of the 1807 colored children on roll, school census showing 2800 were in daily average attendance or a percentage of 58 on roll, and only 36% of the school age colored children attending school. The totals revealed that only 2372 were in average daily attendance of the 3588 enrolled. Of the enrolled children, white and colored, 66% were in daily average attendance, and of the total school-age census only 47.4% were attending school regularly. Hall deployed the great waste not only in school funds, but in the life of the school children of the County. The Superintendent also suggested a consolidation which would place all the white children in the four schools, Smithfield, Windsor, Isle of Wight and Carrsville. He stated that the 1882 white children could be arranged thusly:

in Smithfield	716 pupils, including 155 in high school
in Windsor	604 pupils, including 143 in high school

in Isle of Wight 295 pupils, including 68 in high school and in Carrsville 267 pupils, including 43 in high school. He also suggested that this consolidation would require an additional eight room building at Smithfield, a six room additional building at Windsor, and two room additions at Isle of Wight and Carrsville. He asked the Board members to study this report.

In 1924 the Carrsville building was erected, later there were added a two room addition, a gymnasium, and an Agriculture building. In 1881 Supt. Morrison had asked the question why a white school should not be erected at Carrsville, but in 1922 Supt. Hall had found only a four teacher school at this community. In a few years he had developed it into an accredited high school.

In 1925 a new building was erected at Rescue to replace the one destroyed by fire. Seven years later a combination gymnasium-auditorium was built at Windsor, and the old auditorium converted into classrooms.

Further in his 1924-1925 report Supt. Hall recommended to the Town Council of Smithfield that a sinking fund be created by which some of the $60,000.00 bond issue for the erection of the Smithfield High School, at least, could be retired at maturity. These bonds had been issued at a 6% interest with no provision for retirement. While the County School Board was not responsible, the County School Board concurred in the

recommendation and the School Board and Town Council cooperated in setting up a sinking fund which enabled the calling of the bonds at the fifteen year period in 1937, paying in full half of the bonds and arranging with the local banks to take up the other $30,000.00 and giving the School Board the privilege of retiring these bonds at convenience. This done, the School Board was able to retire the whole issue within a few years and save the taxpayers of Smithfield thousands of dollars in interest charges.

The per capita Instruction cost on Attendance for the 1924-1925 session was for Bay View $50.81; Comet $48.41; Carrollton $36.59; Carrsville $46.43; Isle of Wight $44.52; Mt. Carmel $50.30; Mill Swamp $65.13; Smithfield $37.32; Rescue $48.29; Windsor $48.43; Zuni $38.41.

Supt. Hall also in his 1924-1925 report wrote:

> "This County, like a number of others in the State, has been slow in the progress of Negro children. The buildings and equipment in this County are inadequate for proper instruction. In the past three years new buildings have been erected for the Negroes at Sandy Mount, Camptown and Ebenezer, the last two being Rosenwald schools. The Gay school, a standard two-room building erected about ten years ago, has also been turned over to them. At Carrollton, Muddy Fork, Godwins and Trinity, we have fairly good buildings, but the buildings at Gravel Hill, Livy Neck, McClelland, Central Hill, Beales, Walnut Grove, Allens, Mitchells, Carrsville, Rising Star, are deplorable. The building for the colored children at Smithfield (Riverview School) is poorly constructed with dangerous stairways in case of fire. The building at Windsor needs immediate repairs and a new foundation.

> "I recommend that the County School Board plan several new buildings for the colored children, that a new building be erected at Smithfield, taking into consideration the needs of the Training School you have established there, and the possibilities of closing several of the nearby schools now being taught in halls, these pupils going to the Smithfield School.
> "The teaching in the colored schools has been a source of worry. Very few of the colored teachers are prepared to do the simpliest teaching, and sometimes it seems like a waste of money to continue some of the schools with ill-trained colored teachers. The lack of prepared colored teachers, I hope, will be partly remedied by the Training School to be run at Smithfield.
> "The attendance at the colored schools is low. There are signs, however, of a genuine interest among the best of the race, and many have shown a willingness and a liberality of both their time and money to forward the schooling of their race in this County."

In 1928 the School Board erected the Training School building about a mile south of the Town. Later a Home Economics Cottage and Agricultural building were erected and Home Economics and Agriculture added to the curriculum.

At Carrsville a new two-room building was erected on school board property; the Christian Home two-room building was erected on County property; Fair Oaks and Gravel Hill were consolidated at a new building, Lawnes School; the antiquated building at Mitchells was abandoned for the two-teacher new building; the Walnut School one teacher school and the Beales (Shiloh) one teacher schools were abandoned and consolidated with the two-room old Claytons School, renamed Fair View. The old Macedonia school was supplanted by the New Hope

School, county-owned. New schools were built at Carrollton and McClelland.

By 1935 the roll of colored children in the Isle of Wight schools had jumped to 1920 with a daily average attendance of 1498. There were forty-one colored teachers.

The whites enrolled 1607 pupils with a daily average attendance of 1409. For the first time in the history of the Isle of Wight Schools, the Negroes exceeded the whites in attendance. The schools received $49,670.00 in State and $65,102.00 in Local funds. The high school enrollment had jumped to 483, with 1164 pupils being transported to school. The average salary paid teachers was $700.00. The average high school instruction cost was $56.00, and in elementary schools $14.00. The number of white schools had been reduced to the four at Smithfield, Windsor, Carrsville and Isle of Wight. The last one-room school for whites in the County was the Rescue School which was consolidated with Smithfield in 1936.

Carrying out Supt. Hall's Recommendations of 1924-1925

In 1932 a six-room building with a gymnasium was erected at the Smithfield School, a two-room addition was made to the Carrsville School; the old school building still standing at the Isle of Wight School was renovated affording needed space for Agriculture and Home Economics at that school; the change

at Windsor provided additional rooms for that school.

A Study of High School Graduates

In 1924 Superintendent Hall had made a study of the graduates of the four white high schools. This he repeated in the 1925-1932 period. Combining the results he found that between 1917 and 1932, 529 students had graduated, 177 boys and 352 girls. A total of 242 had attended college with 118 being college graduates. In the County at that time were 313 of the 529 high school graduates. Two hundred and forty-two had attended college with 118 having received college degrees.

The Golden Years of Isle of Wight Public Education

The years 1941-1961 may be termed the Golden Years of Public Education in Isle of Wight County. The first ten years of the period were almost uneventual. The School Board was gradually adding to some of the Negro schools. In 1949 it was decided to ask the people of the County to vote on a $250,000 bond issue for the improvements to the Georgie Tyler School, the Training School and the Camptown School. This was quite an ambitious program, especially for a County in the "black belt" of Virginia. The voters of the County easily carried the issue to a successful conclusion, and the School Board had the contemplated improvements made in the three larger Negro schools. That year also was erected at Smithfield High School

a modern agriculture building.

As soon as the Bond Issue was carried came the news of the Battle Grants for school construction.

The Last Consolidation Fight

When the School Board was considering how to spend the Battle money the question of consolidating the high school departments of the Isle of Wight and Carrsville schools with Smithfield and Windsor respectively erupted. A survey committee from the State Department of Education made a survey of the local situation and recommended alternative plans; first, one high school situated near the geographical center of the County; or two high schools, one at Smithfield and one at Windsor. A local committee appointed by the four schools, three representatives from each, after studying the reports and making a survey of their own, by a very narrow vote came up with the two high school plan, and immediately the fight was on when the School Board accepted its recommendation. The case went through the local Circuit Court favorably, and finally to the Supreme Court, where the action of the local Court was sustained.

The Battle Grants

The stimulus of the Battle Grants had a tremendous effect on the 1941-1961 period of school construction in Isle of Wight County. Isle of Wight received some $400,000.00 for school

construction. While this fund did not have to be matched, Isle of Wight County borrowed from the Literary Fund of Virginia $598,250.00, secured from a bond issue $250,000.00, and contributed from other local revenue more than $400,000.00 to invest a total of $1,613,333.00 in school construction during the twenty year period. This does not include another local bond issue of $1,000,000.00 which will be dealt with later.

The Isle of Wight Plan for Construction 1941-1961

Isle of Wight County differently from many other Virginia counties felt that emphasis in the building should be placed first upon the improvement of the elementary schools. With that in mind, new eight-room elementary buildings were erected at Windsor and Smithfield; a cafeteria was built at the Windsor School; a new Agriculture building was constructed at Smithfield; two additions were added at the Georgie Tyler School, a cafeteria and additional rooms for the fast-growing high school department; two eight-room buildings were built at the Training School (now Westside High School); a $35,000.00 gymnasium was built at Isle of Wight; a two-room addition was added at Camptown; new heating plants were placed in the Smithfield and Windsor schools; the old Agriculture Building at Carrsville was converted into a two-room addition at that school and a new cafeteria; finally, a modern fourteen-room

elementary school was built to form the Hardy School at a cost of $275,000.00. The school was named Hardy in honor of Samuel Hardy one of the County's great men during the Revolutionary periods and the formation of our Nation. In addition to the school construction the Board added another building.

Superintendent's Office Changes from Windsor

In 1961 a New School Administrative Office Building was completed on the Courthouse grounds at Isle of Wight and the Superintendent's Office changed from Windsor. Supt. Hall was the first of the Isle of Wight superintendents to have an office in a public building. Before him, Col. Morrison, Mr. W. S. Holland and Dr. Rawls had space in their residences, or in their law or medical offices. Col. Morrison had his in Smithfield, Mr. Holland, his at Windsor, Dr. Rawls in Carrsville and Hall, after using the old law office of ex-superintendent W. S. Holland, finished up his Windsor office in the old Bank of Windsor building, which the School Board rented from the Town of Windsor. He moved to the new office in the School Administration Building a few months before his retirement in June 1961. This new building was dedicated to him after July 1, 1961.

Growth in the 1941-1961 Period

In 1940-1941 Isle of Wight County received from State School Funds $56,873.00; in 1960-1961 the amount had increased

to $562,821.00, almost ten times as much during the last year of Hall's superintendency. In 1940-1941 Isle of Wight County raised through local levy for schools $76,263.00 and in 1960-1961, almost eight times as much, $452,977.00. In 1940-1941 salaries paid teachers in Isle of Wight County amounted to $80,892.00 which had been increased to $697,578.00 in 1960-1961, about nine times the amount paid in the earlier session. The rate of school tax in the twenty year period had risen from $1.70 to $2.60. The white roll in 1940-1941 was 1387 with a daily average attendance of 1182; in the last year of Superintendent Hall's tenure the white roll had risen to 1869 with a daily average attendance of 1704. For the 1944-1945 session the white roll hit its low mark of 1242 on roll and only 1104 in ADA. In the twenty year period the Negro roll increased from 1782 to 2668 with the ADA increasing from 1418 to 2306. Thus in the 1940-1941 - 1960-1961 interval the white roll increased 482, while the Negro roll increased 886. The white ADA increased from 1182 to 1704, or 522, a percentage of 44. The Negro ADA increased from 1418 to 2306, or 888, a percentage of 61. The total roll rose from 3169 to 4537, an increase of 1368, or 43%, while the total ADA rose from 2600 to 4010, an increase of 1410, or 54%.

The per capita cost of Instruction in 1940-1941 for elementary schools was $20.70 and had reached $139.55 in 1960-1961, almost seven times as much; in high schools the

per capita cost of Instruction went from $61.19 to $272.10, four and one-half times.

The average salary for all teachers, which in 1940-1941 was $794.63, increased more than five-fold in 1960-1961 to $4116.00.

In 1940-1941 the County employed 51 white and 43 Negro teachers. In the last session of Supt. Hall there were 77 white teachers and 87 Negroes, totalling 164 teachers, an increase of 70 teachers, 26 white and 44 Negroes in the twenty years.

The percentage of Local Support in teachers' salaries in 1940-1941 was 39, while in 1960-1961 it was 40.78.

The comparisons above indicate a phenomenal growth in the financial structure of the Isle of Wight schools during the twenty year period. Nevertheless it must not be regarded as exceptional. Isle of Wight is only an average county, and it is to be thought that other counties and cities of the Commonwealth made like progress in the years from 1941. The only credit that can come to the County is that it kept pace with the State in its fast increasing support of the public schools of Virginia. Some counties, expecially those in the Federal impact areas of the State had even more financial growth and academic expansion than did our County.

High School Graduates

In the 1940-1941 session there were only 27 Negro

graduates from the one high school existing then for the colored pupils. In 1960-1961 the two Negro high schools turned out 60 graduates. The four existing white high schools in 1940-1941 graduated 90 and the two in 1960-1961 graduated an even 100.

Value of Property

The valuation of all property owned by the Isle of Wight County School Board in 1940-1941 was $456,400, $377,200 for whites and $79,200 for Negroes. Valuations in 1960-1961 were reported as $1,162,500.00 for whites and $1,399,640.00 for colored, totalling $2,561,790.00.

Negro Transportation

In 1940-1941 the Isle of Wight County schools were operating one Negro bus. This bus had been purchased by the Negroes in the southern part of the County to transport high school pupils to the Training School. When difficulties arose as to qualifying a driver and securing proper insurance on the bus, the Negro patrons asked the School Board to take over the bus. The Board agreed to do this and gradually added to the number of buses for colored pupils, increasing the numbers to 5, 12, 17, and finally to 25 at five year intervals, the same number of white buses in 1960-1961.

Increase in High School Enrollment

The last twenty years have seen increases in the number

of children in high school departments. The white high school roll has gradually risen from 422 in 1940-1941 to 651 in 1960-1961 with corresponding average daily attendance from 389 to 595. The Negro high school pupils in the same period have increased from 211 to 541 with respective ADA from 173 to 467. The white high school roll has increased 54% while the Negro high school roll has increased 330, or 156%.

Improvement in Certificates

Of the 58 white teachers in 1946-1947, 33 held Collegiate Professional or Collegiate Teachers' certificates; 17 held Normal Professional certificates, 5 Emergency and 3 Local Permits. Of the 47 Negro teachers, 26 held the highest certificate, 20 the Normal Professional, and one the Special. In the 1960-1961 session 82 full-time and part-time white teachers held 55 Collegiate Professional or Collegiate certificates, 20 Normal Professional certificates, 5 Special and 2 Emergencies or Local Permits. The 87 Negro teachers had advanced their certificates and 79 held the highest, the Collegiate Professional or Collegiate, eight held the Normal Professional, with the Negro teachers holding no lower certificate.

Improvement in Curriculum

In 1960-1961 all four high schools, two of each race, had Vocational Agriculture, Home Economics, Commercial

Education, and school bands. Smithfield in addition had added classes in Distributive Education. Health and Science had been added to the studies in the elementary grades.

The Bond Issue of 1960

Early in 1960 the School Board of the County determined to ask the County Board of Supervisors for permission to issue $1,750,000.00 in bonds, the money to be secured through the Virginia Supplemental Retirement system. After a number of meetings with the Board of Supervisors and the public during which time the consolidation of Isle of Wight and Carrsville High schools with Smithfield and Windsor flared up again. In July of that year the Board of Supervisors approved the School Board's request, and $1,000,000.00 was made available to build high schools at Smithfield and Windsor.

Summary of Superintendent Hall's Tenure

When he retired in 1961 Supt. Hall had seen the enrollment grow from 3588 to 4537 and the daily attendance from 2372 to 4010. He had seen the number of teachers increase from 98 to 164. There was an increase in the school term from 8.4 months to 9 months with all teachers contracted with for at least 9.5 months. State School funds had advanced from $49,618.00 to $562,821.00; local funds from $61,514.00 to $452,977.00; the school tax rate from $1.00 to $2.60; the amount paid teachers from $69,857.00 to $697,578.00; the value

of school property from less than $300,000.00 to $2,561,790.00. Hall had seen the number of high school graduates rise from fewer than fifty to over 3300. He had seen twelve small and inefficient white schools, some doing high school work, merge into the four large white schools of the County and the twenty-five or more small Negro schools merged to form the four large Negro schools of Isle of Wight County. He had seen all white and colored children of the County housed in centrally heated, masonry buildings with running water and electricity except fewer than one hundred at the Isle of Wight School, still housed in a frame building, but with central heat and running water and electricity. He had seen the one horse wagon replaced by over fifty modern school buses for transportation of children. He had watched with interest the improvement in the teaching force of the County. Among the 66 white teachers' certificates of 1922-1923 only 9 held the Collegiate Professional or Collegiate certificate, 17 the Normal Professional, 6 the Special, 20 the old Elementary and 14 the First Grade, and of the thirty Negro teachers 9 held the Elementary, 9 the First Grade, five the Second Grade and 7 held Local Permits. He had seen the last one-room white school closed in 1936, and the last one-room Negro school closed in 1951. He had seen the erection of a modern school administration building and the office of the School Board and Superintendent located at the County seat.

The Fifth Isle of Wight Superintendent

Superintendent Hall, who had guided the Isle of Wight County schools for almost thirty-nine years, retired on June 30, 1961. He was succeeded in office by Superintendent Paul W. Collins, a native of Scott County, Virginia, where he had served the last eight years as Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Collins received his bachelors degree from Concord College, Athens, West Virginia and his masters degree from Columbia University. He had been teacher and principal of the Fort Blackmore Jr. High School and the Dungannon High School, at the last school being principal for eleven years.

Superintendent Collins' Building Program

Superintendent Collins took over the building program where Hall left off. The School Board determined that the fourteen-room Hardy School was too small and ordered a 9 room addition which was completed for the 1962-1963 session. Plans which had been started before he came to office for the new high schools at Smithfield and Windsor were approved by the State Board of Education and construction of these buildings was started and completed for the new 1962-1963 session. This meant the demolition of the old Windsor High School building and the Agricultural and Home Economics building on the Windsor site. Also a new Agricultural building was added to the Windsor school plant. Attention was then turned to the

Georgie Tyler School and a new eight-room addition was added and a modern gymnasium completed in 1963. Plans are in preparation for an addition to the Training (Westside) Colored School, which when consummated, will add much to the services of that school. The new Superintendent also had had constructed a new four-bay garage located near his office at Isle of Wight C.H.

The Evolution of the Smithfield School

It is interesting to trace the small schools once existing in Isle of Wight County and see into what they finally evolved. For instance in the 1871-1880 period the Smithfield white schools were located at Carrolls Shop, Mill Swamp, Parkers, Smithfield and Burwells Bay; in 1900 schools existed at Benns, Possum Neck, Carrollton, Smith's Neck, Sugar Hill, Rescue, Morgarts, Webbs, Smithfield, Sycamore Cross, Mill Swamp, Stallings, Pleasant Hill, Wards, Warrens, Rushmere, Mt. Holly, and Bethel. By 1920 some of the smaller schools had been abandoned and we find schools at Carrollton, Rescue, Battery Park, Smithfield, Mill Swamp, Rushmere and Comet. In 1940 all of these schools had merged or had been consolidated, forming the present Smithfield School.

The Evolution of the Isle of Wight School

In the 1871-1880 period in the Isle of Wight Courthouse community existed Mill Swamp, Elm Grove, Whitleys, Olivet,

Pulleys, Raynor and Waddells. By 1900 these schools existed: Sycamore Cross, Webbs, Mill Swamp, Pleasant Hill, Isle of Wight, Birdsongs, Sycamore Lawn, Pope's Avenue, Beachwood, Longview, Garners. In 1920 the Isle of Wight community schools had been reduced to Mill Swamp, Comet, Isle of Wight and Hornes. In 1940 only Isle of Wight remained.

The Evolution of the Windsor School

In the 1871-1880 period the present Windsor community had white schools at Barber's Cross Roads, Ducksville, Windsor, Clements, Morris, Britts Ave., Zuni, Waddells and Mumfords. By 1900 these schools existed: Indika, Shiloh, Line Pine, Sunnyside, Douglas Spring, Beatons, Antioch, Enterprise, Britts Ave., Zuni, Pope's Ave., Mumfords and Roundtree. In 1920 Mt. Carmel, Windsor, Gay, Zuni, and Claytons were the Windsor area schools. Windsor alone remained in 1940.

The Evolution of the Carrsville School

In the 1871-1880 period the Carrsville area had the following white schools: Ducksville, near Franklin, Councils, Holland, Johnson's Cross Roads. By 1900 these were the schools: Joyners, Douglas Springs, Wash Hole, Great Mill, Carrsville, Johnson's Cross Roads, Bradshaws and Lone Pine. In 1920 these had been reduced to Mt. Carmel, Carrsville, Darden's Cross Roads and Lone Pine. The Carrsville School had supplanted all of these in 1940.

It will be noted that some of these schools as they evolved seem to have gone to two schools. This, of course, is possible, the children of the merged school being assigned to the nearest one.

The Evolution of the Westside School

In the 1871-1880 period Negro schools were established in the Smithfield area at Smithfield, at Carroll's Shop (Carrollton), one at Banks, one in the neighborhood of Col. Dardens, in the vicinity of the present Orbit, Gravel Hill (Rushmere), and at Baileys Chapel. In the 1924-1925 period these Negro schools were in the Westside area: Christian Home, Muddy Fork, Rising Star, Macedonia, Riverview (Smithfield), Livy Neck, Gravel Hill, Fair Oaks, Godwins, McClelland, Sandy Mount, Ebenezer, Davis Hall, Oak Grove, and Trinity. By 1940-1941 the schools for Negroes in this area were: Christian Home, Bridger (succeeding Muddy Fork), Moon (succeeding Rising Star), Training School (succeeding Riverview), Livy Neck, Lawnes (replacing Fair Oaks and Gravel Hill), Ebenezer, and Trinity. Moon, Christian Home and Ebenezer were later consolidated with the Training School.

Evolution of the Camptown School

This Negro School was built in 1939 and subsequently added to and represents a combination of the Allens School, the Carrsville colored school and the Jamestown School at Camptown.

Evolution of the Georgie Tyler School

The Georgie Tyler School was built in 1949, subsequently added to and became the second accredited Negro High School. It was named after the veteran Supervisor of Negro Schools, who retired prior to its building. This school was made up from the first Negro schools at Dardens, Windsor and the schools of the 1924-1925 session at Windsor, Mitchells, Gay, Holly Grove, Beales, Walnut Grove, Central Hill, Eleys and Shiloh.

Evolution of the Hardy School

The Hardy School was built in 1960-1961 and was made up of the Bridger School (once the Muddy Fork School), the Carrollton Colored School, the New Hope School, which had already been consolidated with the Training School, the Trinity School and the Lawnes School.

Conclusion

The Isle of Wight County schools today are the fruition of the desires of the earliest white inhabitants of the County. In 1661 the Reverend Roger Greene expressed the want of schools, that the numerous generations of Christian children might become serviceable in the work of the Church and State. The seeds to satisfy these needs were planted by such early Isle of Wight citizens as Benjamin Syms, Captain John Moon, Henry King and Elizabeth Smith. Hundreds of others realized the need for education and provided in their wills or through

their incomes for the schooling of their children. With American Independence the influence of the Church in education declined and there began the ascendency of the State's influence. Indigent children were sent by the State through the School Commissioners to the old field schools. Gradually as a more liberal interpretation was placed upon the term indigent by the Isle of Wight Commissioners, and undoubtedly by other such Boards, increasing numbers of Isle of Wight children filled the schools. War only delayed the changing of the plan from educating a few unfortunates in the population to the education of all the children under a State financed system supplemented by local revenue. The public school system established in 1871 by Col. Morrison in Isle of Wight County was the culmination of the Commissioners' schools of ante bellum Isle of Wight, and the beginnings of the system of 1963. Although the new public school system was weak and without sufficient funds, teachers, buildings, or equipment, it possessed the germ which was nourished by the interest of the people. The public schools grew in usefulness and service under the District Boards and found room for expansion under the County unit system.

Public spirited men and women have served the schools. The benefactors of early days gave of their money; the School Commissioners of the ante bellum period gave of their time and thought; the District and County School Board members made

their contributions that the schools might live and grow.

The form of control has changed; first, the Church and its Wardens; next, individuals; then, companies; then Commissioners; and, finally District and County School Boards. But in each successive period there has been some tie to the previous one. Henry Burgess, "quondam Colonial parson" became principal of Millfield Academy; trustees of the Smithfield Academy became District School Board members; and, finally, in the modern age, District Board members became County Board members.

Through the years to come the schools of Isle of Wight County will continue to grow and improve. Teachers, curriculum, control and support will change. Buildings and transportation will be better. But can the purpose be better than that expressed in 1827 for the feeble schools of Isle of Wight County: "Making good and useful members of society"?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Arber, Edward. Works of Captain John Smith, 1608-1631. Birmingham, England, 1884.

Bruce, Philip Alexander. Economic History of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century. Two volumes. Macmillan, New York, 1895.

Bruce, Philip Alexander. Social Life of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century. Whittet and Shepperson, Richmond, 1907.

Bruce, Philip Alexander. Institutional History of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century. Two Volumes. Putman, New York, 1910.

Boddie, John Bebbett. Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight County, Virginia. Chicago Law Printing Company, Chicago, 1938.

Chapman, Blanche Adams. Wills and Administrations, Isle of Wight County, Virginia, 1647-1800 (abstracted and compiled). Memeographed, three volumes, 1938.

Fifteenth Census of the United States. U. S. Department of Bureau of Census: W. M. Sturat, Director, 1930.

Heatwhole, Cornelius J. History of Education in Virginia. Macmillan, New York, 1916.

Isle of Wight County, Virginia Court Records (Deeds, Wills and Account Books, Property Books).

Knight, Edgar W. Public Education in the South. Ginn and Co., New York, 1922.

Maddox, William A. The Free School Idea in Virginia Before the Civil War. Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, 1918.

Martin, Joseph. Gazetteer of Virginia. Charlottesville, Virginia, 1935.

Minutes Isle of Wight County School Board, 1871-1884; 1922-1961. Office Division Superintendent of Schools.

Morrison, A. J. The Beginnings of Public Education in Virginia 1776-1860. Superintendent of Public Printing, Richmond,

Virginia, 1917.

Morrison, E. M. Isle of Wight County 1608-1907. Norfolk, Virginia, 1907.

O'Shea, M. V. Public Education in Virginia. Superintendent of Public Printing, Richmond, Virginia, 1928.

Purdie, John R. History of Education in Isle of Wight County. Unpublished and found in Minute Book of School Board, written about 1880.

Reports to the Second Auditor of Virginia made by the School Commissioners 1826-1860. Superintendent of Public Printing, Richmond, Virginia.

Sams, Conway Whittle. The Conquest of Virginia. G. P. Putman's Sons, New York, 1916.

Surry County, Virginia Court Records.

Swem, E. G. Virginia Historical Index. Stone Printing and Manufacturing Co., Roanoke, Virginia, 1936.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Annual Reports 1871-1961. Superintendent Public Printing, Richmond, Virginia.

Tyler, Lyon C. Education in Colonial Virginia. William and Mary Historical Magazine, Vol. 5.

William and Mary Quarterly Historical Magazine 1893-1919. Edited by Lyon G. Tyler.